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1. Vigh (Special) Hospital, located in Tehran, is owned and operated by Dr. Abdolkhosyn Mirsepassi. It is primarily a psychiatric hospital, established about 1940 in a building formerly occupied as a residence. It now includes five brick buildings. Total bed capacity is about 100, but this figure can be and usually is extended to about 150.
2. All patients must pay for hospitalization. Those who are hospitalized for a short time, that is not more than six months, pay 250 rials per day for a bed in a ward, and 300 to 350 rials per day for private rooms. Those whose hospitalization extends more than six months pay 100 rials per day for beds.
3. None of the medical supplies used at the hospital are produced in Iran. They are imported from Switzerland, France, Germany, United Kingdom and US.

Switzerland: Testosterone, coramine for heart stimulation, calcium, aspirin, Saridon (a type of aspirin), and vitamins.

France: Camphor, glucose serum, salt serum and vitamins

Germany: Glucose and salt serums, penicillin, hypodermic needles, syringes and surgical rubber gloves.

United Kingdom: Insulin, glucose serum, most medical instruments, hot water bags and vitamins.

US: Antibiotics.
4. About 75 beds are used for psychiatric patients. Treatments for schizophrenia and manic-depression is the same. Insulin, electric shock, testosterone and calcium are used. In severe cases electric shock treatment is administered four times each week, while in routine cases electric shock is given once or twice each week.
5. Treatment for advanced cases of general paralysis caused by the last stage of syphilis consists of injections of four to ten centimeters of cow's milk to induce fever, then injections of two cubic centimeters of arsenic solution twice a week, and bismuth. Epilepsy is treated with phenobarbital and melancholy with insulin.

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6. The remaining beds are used for internal medicine and surgery patients. Patients in these divisions usually have some form of medical insurance.

7. Dr. Mirsepassi, who founded the hospital, is a graduate of a French medical school. I am not certain, but I think he received his MD from the University of Paris or Lyons. After he received his MD degree he was a staff member of Timarestan (mental) hospital in Tehran until about 1940. While a member of this hospital he performed a number of autopsies arising out of accidents and sudden deaths where legal questions were involved. He did this to supplement his income. In 1951 he was appointed chief of the psychiatric clinic at the University of Tehran Medical School group of hospitals. He has written three books on hysteria, schizophrenia and epilepsy and is now [February 1953] writing a book covering the entire field of psychiatry. (I do not know the exact title of any of these books.)

Dr. Mirsepassi is intensely interested in his work and spends at least two or three hours at the University of Tehran, about six hours at his hospital and the remainder of his 18 hour daily working schedule is devoted to reading journals in his field and writing books. He is considered highly competent and receives patients from all over Iran. His advice on psychiatric problems is requested by almost all physicians in his field. He is interested in attending medical meetings in Iran and usually participates in them. He is married and has three children, two of whom are boys. His wife comes from a wealthy family, but I do not know her family name nor the source of their wealth. One of her brothers was Minister of Education before Mossadegh became Prime Minister.

8. Mrs. (fnu) Khatamy is in charge of purchasing food, medicine and medical instruments for the hospital. She has been employed there since about 1948. She is a distant relative of Dr. Mirsepassi.

9. Mr. (fnu) Hessaby is superintendent of finances and of hospital admittance and discharge records. He also interviews all personnel for employment. He works for an Iranian government insurance agency each morning but works at the hospital in the afternoon. He is also a distant relative of Dr. Mirsepassi.

10. The staff, besides Dr. Mirsepassi, now (February 1953) includes Dr. (fnu) Sharmehry and two University of Tehran medical students working part time.

11. There are five nurses on the staff, two men and three women. None are graduates of a nursing school, but correspond to US "practical" nurses. They give hypodermic and intravenous injections and administer medicine. They also supervise the 30 charwomen who perform housekeeping chores.

12. The hospital is equipped with a number of oil stoves to supply heat in cold weather. All rooms are equipped with electricity. Water supply and electric power are obtained from the city of Tehran.

13. The hospital has one old operating table for surgery. It is of US manufacture. All surgery was performed by Dr. (fnu) Paya who was also employed by a government insurance agency. All surgical instruments belonged to him as did a small portable X-ray machine of French manufacture. I have no further details on this hospital.

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